

SPOTLIGHT: Open Door Provides Transparency for Kentucky State Government Spending

Since being launched in 2009, the OpenDoor portal has become a nationally recognized model of online transparency. Even international government leaders took notice. Since inception, students, media and leaders from more than 30 countries have talked with Kentucky officials to learn about OpenDoor.

OpenDoor provides citizens with easy access to the sources of revenue for the commonwealth, how much Kentucky state government spends, with whom it spends those dollars and for what products or services. Visitors can find details on state contracts, up-to-date state employee salaries, the executive budget, state owned/leased properties, and much more.

New within the last 12 months is the Citizens Tax Calculator. Anyone can enter their individual income tax payment and see where their money goes.

Greg Haskamp, project director for OpenDoor, said, "We are always trying to find ways to improve the information made available on the portal. The citizen tax calculator is an interactive way for taxpayers to see how the taxes they pay are spent within state government."

In the *Following the Money 2013* report that recently came out, it graded all 50 states on how they provide online access to government spending data. Kentucky continued to be recognized as a leading state for its transparency initiative. Kentucky has been among the top two states for transparency nationally, since the reports began three years ago.

"I am proud of the OpenDoor portal," said Sec. Lori Flanery. "The fact that we have this incredible resource at a fraction of the cost that other states have invested, goes to show the talent and resourcefulness of our staff in the Finance Cabinet."

To check out OpenDoor, go to opendoor.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx.



Don't Forget – Dine Out Today, Aug. 15 for KECC!!!

Eating lunch out is a regular occurrence for many of us, so why not eat to benefit KECC?

On **Aug. 15, Sept. 13, and Oct. 15**, if you dine in or carryout at either of the Frankfort locations of Applebee's or Johnny Carino's and present the a **DINE TO DONATE** flyer, **10%** of your bill will be donated to KECC. Click [here](#) for Applebee's Flyer. Click [here](#) for Carino's Flyer.

Using Wi-Fi: Connect with Care

Cyber Security Tips from COT

Wi-Fi hotspots are everywhere: airports, hotels, train stations, coffee shops, and other public places. While convenient, they're often not secure, and can leave you at risk.

Whether you're entertaining the kids by streaming a video on a tablet, downloading new travel apps on your smartphone or enjoying an iced latte, there are precautions you should take to make sure your personal information is safe.

First and foremost, connect with care. If you're online through an unsecured network, you should be aware that individuals with malicious intent may have established a Wi-Fi network with the intent to eavesdrop on your connection. This could allow them to steal your credentials, financial information, or other sensitive and personal information. It's also possible that they could infect your system with malware. Any free Wi-Fi should be considered to be "unsecure." Therefore, be cautious about the sites you visit and the information you release.



STOP. THINK. CONNECT. Here are 6 tips to remember when using Wi-Fi

- Keep an updated machine. Having the latest security software, operating system, web browser and apps can help protect you from the malware and other threats you may encounter when using Wi-Fi.
- Don't assume that the Wi-Fi connection is secure. Many hotspots don't encrypt the information you send on the Wi-Fi network.
- Do not log into accounts, especially financial accounts, when using public wireless networks.
- Do not log onto sites that don't seem legitimate, (clues could include the URL being misspelled, or not matching the name that you were given by the place of business). It's not uncommon for cybercriminals to set up a Wi-Fi network called "free Wi-Fi" in airports, hotels, and other public places.
- A cellular 3G/4G connection is generally safer than a Wi-Fi connection.
- Consider turning off features on your computer or mobile devices that allow you to automatically connect to Wi-Fi.

Grammar Tip: Less vs. Fewer

Less and fewer are easy to mix up. They mean the same thing—the opposite of more—but they are used in different circumstances. The basic rule is that **less** is used with mass nouns and **fewer** with count nouns.

A count noun something you can count such as books, pens and M&M's. These things can be counted, so they are count nouns and the right word to use is **fewer**. I should eat **fewer** M&M's.

Mass nouns are things that can't be counted individually. Redtape and water can't be counted individually. Therefore the right word to use is **less**. If there was **less** redtape and more open doors, things would be a lot more transparent.



Grammar Girl at <http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/>



**The Kentucky
State Fair, Aug. 15-25**
For information go to KYStateFair.org.



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